

Application No.: 10/519,339
Filing Date: August 15, 2005

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of dependent claim 5. Claim 5 has been canceled. Here, the patentability of the subject matter of claim 5 will be discussed, and therefore, no new matter or new issue has been included. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Rejection Under 35 USA § 102

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Knobel et al. The limitations of Claim 5 which have not been rejected on this ground have been incorporated into Claim 1. Thus, this rejection is moot.

Rejection Under 35 USA § 103

Claims 1- 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated over Nakazawa et al. in view of Miyamoto. Claim 1 is independent and has been amended to include the limitations of claim 5. Claim 1 recites:

A conductive resin film constituted by laminated layers comprising:
a conductive substrate layer; and
a low-resistance layer with a volume resistance of 0.1 to 1.0 Ωcm in a thickness direction as at least one of its outermost layer;
each layer of the laminated layers being made of a resin and a conductive agent, wherein the substrate layer comprises a conductive agent selected from the group consisting of graphite powder, exfoliated graphite, carbon black, carbon fiber, carbon nanofiber, carbon nanotube, a metal carbide, a metal nitride, a metal oxide, metal fiber and metal powder.

Due to the above configurations (both the conductive substrate layer and the low-resistance layer are made of a resin and a conductive agent which is selected from the specific group), the conductive resin film has both good conductivity and good acid resistance (page 4 of the instant specification, for example).

Nakazawa teaches that the polarized electrodes 12 are composed of powder active carbon or active carbon fiber, or solidified active carbon, and in each case, an electrolyte solution permeates into the polarized electrode (col. 1, lines 25-40). As is well known in the art,

the active carbon is amorphous and porous, and has exceptionally high specific surface area. See, for example, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Activated_carbon (accessed 2/19/2008) stating:

Activated carbon, also called activated charcoal or activated coal, is a general term that includes carbon material mostly derived from charcoal. For all three variations of the name, "activated" is sometimes substituted by "active". By any name, it is a material with an exceptionally high surface area. Due to a high degree of microporosity, just one gram of activated carbon has a surface area of approximately 500 m², as determined typically by nitrogen gas adsorption. Sufficient activation for useful applications may come solely from the high surface area, though often further chemical treatment is used to enhance the absorbing properties of the material.

The exceptionally high specific surface area (extremely high porosity) is adverse to good conductivity and thus active carbon is not considered to be a conductive agent. In Nakazawa, an active carbon material must be used, and by using an electrolytic solution in combination with the active carbon material, the polarized electrode is formed.

In contrast, in claim 1, the substrate layer comprises a **conductive agent** selected from the group consisting of **graphite powder, exfoliated graphite, carbon black, carbon fiber, carbon nanofiber, carbon nanotube, a metal carbide, a metal nitride, a metal oxide, metal fiber and metal powder**. In the above, carbon black, carbon fiber, carbon nanofiber, and carbon nanotube are all distinguished from active carbon. Because of the conductive agent, the conductive resin film of claim 1 is not used as a polarized electrode, but suitably used as a **collector** of an electric double layer capacitor. Due to the above configurations in claim 1, the conductive resin film exhibits excellent conductivity and acid resistance. The polarized electrode is structurally very different from the conductive resin film recited in claim 1, and Nakazawa does not teach the conductive substrate layer recited in claim 1 in a predictable manner.

Miyamoto is irrelevant to the above structures of the conductive substrate layer. By using the specific conductive agent, the conductive agent can be exposed in a surface resulting in good conductivity (e.g., page 26, line 9-10, Fig. 3A and 3B) in claim 1 so that a metal layer as used in Miyamoto (4, Figs. 1-3) is irrelevant, and a corrosion problem of inner metal film as stated in Miyamoto (paragraph 10 line 5) would not be an issue in claim 1.

At least in view of the foregoing, a combination of Nakazawa and Miyamoto cannot lead to claim 1, and claim 1 cannot be *prima facie* obvious over Nakazawa and Miyamoto. The

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remaining claims depend ultimately from claim 1, and at least for this reason, the remaining claims also cannot be obvious over Nakazawa and Miyamaot.

CONCLUSION

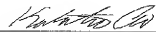
In the light of the applicant's amendment to the claims and the following Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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